GDP in Agriculture Sector

3533. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that while in 1998-99 there was 9.9 per cent growth in GDP relating to Agriculture, in 1999-2000 it has dropped to 0.5 per cent;

(b) if so, have the reasons for this poor performance of the agriculture sector which resulted in sharp decline in GDP been identified and action taken to avoid recurrence of the same; and

(c) what are the details of the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir. According to the Quick Estimates of GDP for the year 1998-99 released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the growth rate of the sector. "Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing is 7.2% and as per the Advance Estimate by CSO for the year 1999-2000, the growth rate of the sector is 0.8. However, according to the Quarterly Estimates of GDP by CSO, the growth rates of the sector, "Agriculture, Forestry & Fiishing' for the third quarters of 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are 9.9% and 0.5% respectively.

(b) and (c) The decline in the performance of agriculture during 1999-2000 is due to aberrant weather conditions resulting in lower area coverage and lower productivity of various crops like oilseeds, coarse cereals, pulses etc. To increase production and productivity in Agriculture, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored integrated Cereal Development Programmes in rice/wheat/coarse cereals Based Cropping System Area, National Pulse Development Project, Oilseeds Production Programme and Technology Mission on Cotton etc. Under these programmes/projects, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, aplication of Integrated Pest Management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and use of improved farm implements. Research is also being continuously undertaken to develop improved technologies so as to enhance the productivity and production of food grains in India. Field demonstrations on farmers' holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers is being organised for effective transfer of technology.